GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3861
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
CONFERENCE ON ENERGY UTILISATION IN MUMBAI
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conference was organised in Mumbai by International Institute forsustainable future on sustainable energy utilization during August, 2000;

(b) the number of experts from abroad participated in this conference;

(c) the main points discussed at the Conference and recommendations emerging therefrom; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : According to the International Institute for Sustainable Future nearly 45 energy expertsand 300 participants from different parts of the world attended for Conference.

(c) : The main points discussed in the Conference include:

- Energy development and environmental crisis.
- Cost of clean energy development and its long term benefits.
- Strategic plans for global sustainable energy and environment development.
- Fossil fuels and climate change.
- New and renewable energy solutions.
- Advanced technologies to reduce environmental impact of energy production through fossil fuels.
- Distributed energy technologies.
- Potentials of renewable energy development in the Developing World, particularly India.
- Sustainable transport development.
- Energy efficiency in building systems.
- Rural Energy Development.
- The Conference was concluded by the release of The Mumbai Declaration, a copy of which is at Annexure.

(d) : The proceedings of the conference have not been received in the Ministry of Power.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3861 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LO SABHA ON 22.03.2001 REGARDING CONFERENCE ON ENERGY UTILISATION IN MUMBAI.

THE MUMBAI DECLARATION

I

- It is generally well recognized that humanity faces two major crises of worsening energy situation and increasing degradation of environment.

- It is clear that a great deal of destruction of the environment is directly related to the production, transportation and consumption of finite non-renewable resources like fossil fuel.

- Of the 6.1 billion people, 4.9 billion people living in the development world face unprecedented problems of declining energy resources.

- At least 2 billion people in the south are energy refugees surviving on firewood, which consumes large amounts of the lifetime of women in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- At the same time, the forest and tree covers in these parts of the world are depleting very fast driving these people to the edge of the precipice.

II

- Recognizing that the global situation concerning fossil fuel are shrinking and that nuclear power is being denounced by a majority of nations and people.

- Knowing that the present devastation of the global and local environments is already making the lives of millions of people intolerable.

- Believing that the present situation cannot continue for a long period of time.

- We have prepared this Mumbai Declaration at the end of the international conference on Sustainable Energy & Environment.

- The Declaration, at the outset, emphasizes that the path for humanity in the 21st century for sustainable development is to tap the renewable resources first in the developing countries and in time the world over.

- Already, many countries and organization have undertaken the task of developing biogas plants, solar energy systems-photovoltaic and other simple solar systems such as solar cookers, dryers, etc.

- There are innumerable other energy resources being developed worldwide such as biogas plants and wind farms, etc.

- There is a great deal of research and development necessary for the area of solar power satellite and lunar power satellites.

- The other renewable resources of energy include geothermal, tidal, etc.

III

- Therefore, we recommend global and national policies concerning renewable energy developments while at the same time ensure the environmental protection.

- For this purpose, vast investments in all these related areas should be necessary in the United Nations, other international agencies, government, business and industries.

- There should be a people`s movement for the development of small and sustainable energy development projects.

- The most important item related to renewable energy is to mobilize the people of the world for energy conservation, energy efficiency and utilization of all energy forms by setting up priorities.

Ultimately, it is the last 30% of the people of the planet who should be protected from the energy deprivation.

CONCLUSION:

For several centuries now, the number of people living as energy refugees has been escalating geometrically. Recognizing that energy is the key to survival, development and progress, it is the fundamental responsibility of humanity to move towards large scale development of renewable energy resources all over the planet in every country. The situation is grim and pathetic and if the trends continue at the present rate of decline, we shall face a disaster of an unprecedented order. Therefore, we owe a responsibility not only to present generation but for many generations to come. Let the dreams of our children be realized by committing ourselves to the cause of the development of sustainable energy so that long after we are gone, we leave behind a good life for all those who will traverse this beautiful earth.